32.	13755235YT Rfn Vijay Pal	JAK RIFLE
33.	2690121K Gdr Naresh Kumar	GRENADIERS REGT
34.	13756688 L/NK Padam Singh	JAK RIFLE
35.	4067421N LNK Harish Singh	GARH RIFLES
36.	2690261K Gdr Yogindar Singh	GRENADIERS REGT
37.	2690357Y Gdr Surjeet Singh	GRENADIERS
38.	3992362X Nk Ashwani Kumar	PARA REGT
39.	14367369F L/Hav Gurdas Singh	ARTILLERY
40.	13759173F Rfn Sunil Kumar	JAK RIFLE
41.	IC-57156H Capt. Vikram Batra, PVC	JAK RIFLE

News-Item on Fauji Adalat

†218. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in Delhi edition of Jansatta dated the 11th November, 1999 under the caption, Fauji Adalat Mein Patrakar;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The competent authority under Rule 177 of the Army Rules, framed by the Central Government under Section 191 of Army Act, has ordered a Court of Inquiry to investigate into serious allegations relating to disclosure of certain documents which constituted violation of the Indian Official Secrets Act, 1923. The Court of Inquiry can summon witnesses, including civilian witnesses, by virtue of the power vested in it under Section 135(1) of the Army Act. The Court had issued summons to some journalists in September/October 1999, in connection with this sensitive investigation. However, after considering the statements of other witnesses on

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

record, the Court decided to dispense with the attendance of the journalists.

No action by the Government is called for in this case.

Procurement of Anti-Mine Vehicles

219. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had purchased 90 anti-mine vehicles for counter insurgency operation in J&K and North-East in 1998;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; including the cost; and

(c) whether quotations for the purchase of vehicles were invited and if so, the details thereof including the rates submitted by each firm?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Urgent acquisition of a suitable vehicle to protect troops against the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) was considered imperative in view of escalated use of such devices by the insurgents, leading to ever-increasing casualties and effect on troops' morale due to lack of a suitable response thereto. Technical analysis of the characteristics of the alternative vehicles explored through our Military Attaches abroad established that MPV CASSPIR of M/s Reumech suited best the requirment of Army for a Mine Protected Vehicle and the other vehicles were not considered suitable on consideration of cost, mobility, protection level, carrying capacity and delivery schedule. Techno commercial offers, obtained from the vendor, were subjected to close scrutiny and appraisal, followed by sustained negotiations, wherein a unit price of US $ 1,25,000 was reached against the original, budgetary quote of US $ 1,53,000.